

News Release

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Local Health Care System to Host National Veterans Athletic Event

VA Adaptive Sporting Rehabilitation Program to Bring Hundreds of Veterans to Omaha

OMAHA, **Neb.** — Hundreds of Veterans will converge here for the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs' National Veterans Golden Age Games (NVGAG), Aug. 8–12, 2015.

The VA Nebraska-Western Iowa Health Care System (VA NWIHCS) is hosting the event at venues across Omaha. The theme for the 2015 games is "Patriots on the Plains."

In its 29th consecutive year, the NVGAG is the premier senior adaptive rehabilitation program for military Veterans who are 55 years and older, and are enrolled in VA health care.

Competitive events for the games are air rifle, bowling, checkers, cycling, dominoes, track & field, golf, horseshoes, nine ball, shuffleboard, swimming, table tennis and badminton. Two exhibition events will be held: bocce ball and 3-on-3 basketball.

"This is an exciting opportunity for our local VA health care system and Omaha to host this premier Veterans' sporting and rehabilitation event," said Eileen Kingston, acting director, VA NWIHCS. "We are excited to work closely with community partners to not only make this a successful event for Veterans, but to also showcase the Omaha metropolitan area to the hundreds of visitors who will come for the event."

Registration for the games will open in December and run through March 2015.

For more information, visit <u>www.veteransgoldenagegames.va.gov</u> or call Anna Morelock, the 2015 games local coordinator, at 800-451-5796, ext. 95748.

The National Veterans Golden Age Games is the only national multi-event sports and recreational seniors' competition program designed to improve the quality of life for all older Veterans, including those with a wide range of abilities and disabilities. The NVGAG is one of the most progressive and adaptive rehabilitative senior sports programs in the world. The games serve as a qualifying event for competition in the National Senior Games in a number of competitive events.

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About VA Nebraska-Western Iowa Health Care System

The VA Nebraska-Western Iowa Health Care System's mission is to honor America's Veterans by providing exceptional health care that improves their health and well-being. VA NWIHCS employees serve more than 161,000 Veterans in Nebraska, western Iowa and portions of Kansas and Missouri. The system includes a tertiary medical center in Omaha and a Community Living Center in Grand Island, Neb. Community-based outpatient clinics are located in Lincoln, Grand Island, North Platte, Norfolk, and Bellevue, Neb., and Shenandoah, Iowa; and a contract outreach clinic in O'Neill, Neb. For more information, visit http://www.nebraska.va.gov

